

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SCSTATE WASHDC 1879

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 1831

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO, PU, SW

SUBJECT: GUINEA-BISSAU SOLIDARITY MEETING

SUMMARY: LONG-PLANNED STOCKHOLM GUINEA-BISSAU SOLIDARITY MEETING HELD ON SCHEDULE APRIL 28, WITH FERNANDO CABRAL AND MIRIAM MAKEBA FEATURED. CABRAL SAID COUP CAUSED BY PAIGC AND VOWED CONTINUE FIGHT TO INDEPENDENCE. MEETING HAD SPARSE ATTENDANCE BUT BETTER THAN EXPECTED MEDIA COVERAGE BECAUSE OF COUP EVENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SWEDISH PEACE AND ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION PRIOR TO COUP ANNOUNCED A GUINEA-BISSAU SOLIDARITY MEETING IN STOCKHOLM APRIL 28. COUP CAUSED SOME CONFUSION BUT MEETING TOOK PLACE ANYWAY, WITH SPARSE ATTENDANCE.

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2. FEATURED SPEAKER WAS FERNANDO CABRAL, BROTHER OF

MURDERED PAIGC LEADER AMILCAR CABRAL. FERNANDO CABRAL, WHO SPEAKS SOME SWEDISH, IS HERE TO STUDY ANAESTHETICS, ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPERS. HE SAID HE HAD PREPARED A LONG SPEECH ABOUT GUINEA-BISSAU, BUT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES HE CHOSE TO TALK ABOUT THE RECENT COUP IN PORTUGAL. "THE COUP CAME AS NO SURPRISE TO PAIGC," HE SAID, "IT IS RESULT OF THE SUCCESSFUL FIGHT OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. IT IS THANKS TO US THAT PORTUGUESE TV NOW HAS SHOWN ITS FIRST UNCENSORED PROGRAMS... WHEN SPINOLA BECAME GOVERNOR OF GUINEA-BISSAU, HE DECLARED THAT HE WOULD DEFEAT US WITHIN FOUR MONTHS. HE STAYED FIVE YEARS AND WHEN HE LEFT WE WERE STRONGER THAN EVER."

3. CABRAL REFERRED TO SPINOLA'S SEVERE BOMBINGS OF THE COUNTRY AND HIS SOCIAL-POLITICAL EFFORTS, "SMILES AND BLOOD" WERE HIS POLICY. "SOONER OR LATER THE PORTUGUESE LEADERS WILL BE FORCED TO NEGOTIATE WITH PAIGC AND FRELIMO - IF NOT, THE WAR WILL NEVER END." CABRAL CONCLUDED THAT HE EXPECTS GUINEA-BISSAU TO BECOME AN INDEPENDENT STATE WITHIN THREE TO FOUR YEARS.

4. SPEAKING DURING THE DAY WAS ALSO GIL FERNANDES OF THE PAIGC. A SURPRISE GUEST PERFORMER WAS MIRIAM MAKEBA, WHO HAPPENED TO BE VISITING STOCKHOLM TO VISIT DENTIST AND CUT A RECORD. SHE SAID, "I DON'T EXPECT TOO MUCH FROM THE NEW PORTUGUESE JUNTA, THEY ARE ONLY A NEW KIND OF DICTATOR, BUT I HOPE THAT THERE MIGHT BE NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR THE COLONIES."

5. THE SWEDISH CHAIRMAN OF THE SPONSORING ORGANIZATION, FORMER SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MEMBER OF THE RIKSDAG STELLAN ARVIDSSON, SAID THAT THE PORTUGUESE DRAMA MEANS THAT ITS "DECAYED DICTATORSHIP HAS DISAPPEARED AND SO WILL ALSO PORTUGAL'S ROTTEN COLONIAL RULE."

6. ALTHOUGH ATTENDANCE SLIGHT, THE RALLY RECEIVED GOOD PRESS COVERAGE BECAUSE OF APPEARANCE OF MAKEBA AND INTEREST FOCUSED ON PORTUGAL BECAUSE OF COUP.

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